

Green Building Advisory Group – Summary Minutes
November 14, 2005

Present: Rudy Berg, Mark Miksis, Scott Stolarczyk, Jan Fillinger, Eran Schlesinger, G.Z. Brown, Doug McClaughry

Observers: Charles Biggs, Davy Ray

Staff: Patricia Thomas, Keli Osborn, Planning & Development Department; Ron Sutton, Mike Penwell, Facility Management Division

1. Members OK'd *minutes* from the October 2005 meeting.

2. *Sustainable Business Initiative*

Mark provided information about the Mayor's Sustainable Business Initiative. He is on the SBI Task Force. The Green Building Roundtable group includes Doug, Alec Dakers, Rudy, Mark and Scott, all of whom participate in GBAG. The Task Force will be holding town hall meetings on December 13 and January 12. The SBI Green Building Roundtable will meet on December 5 to further discuss recommendations on ways to promote sustainable practices by local businesses and grow and retain businesses in the "green building" sectors. These recommendations would then go to the SBI Task Force, which in turn will sift through ideas generated by the public and through different roundtable discussions, before reporting to the Mayor and City Council.

3. *Subcommittee reports*

Members shared recommendations and ideas from the subcommittee meetings on:

Awards/Recognition

Public Education

Regulations

Incentives

Regulations

Scott: Can we involve Public Works in these green building discussions?

Eran: Contractors don't know that deconstruction costs less. Get the information out there.

Keli shared draft templates from City staff as a way to summarize information on current regulations, proposed modifications or "work arounds," and possible next steps for regulatory changes.

Rudy: Could the City put case study information on the City website about projects? Explain what works and what does not. What's been used? What have the impacts been?

Mike Penwell: I'd like to get information out there on the failures.

Mark: Eco-Smart Concrete provides grants to prepare case studies on the use of fly ash.

Patricia: Are there opportunities in the land use code, too?

G.Z.: Explained need for load-related versus system-related energy analysis.

Education

Rudy distributed a list from the Education subcommittee identifying Eugene-area green building education partnering groups.

G.Z.: Should target education. For example, produce a flyer, "Thinking about adding on?" with information about items to consider for a remodel or addition, and obtain funding from lending organizations.

Alex: Consider effects of green building on appraisals.

Ron: Discussed economics around different decisions, as well as the value of green building at the front end and over a building's lifespan.

G.Z.: Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance also is emphasizing education, including for vertical markets (e.g., health care), operations and maintenance, and design and construction. We should talk to them about curriculum development.

Charles: Look at ways to work with neighborhood groups and use neighborhood newsletters to distribute information.

Awards and Recognition

The subcommittee will provide its report at a future meeting.

Incentives

Scott: Group recommends a grant-writing effort to bring in funds. Additionally, Micheal Roberts will follow up on systems development charges (SDCs). What incentives already exist and can be employed to lower design, construction and other costs?

G.Z.: Did the subcommittee take a systemic view? For instance, smaller fire trucks might allow for more narrow roads (less impervious surface). Could cost savings result in two smaller trucks -- rather than one large truck that requires larger roads?

Group: A systemic view would integrate Fire, Public Works and PDD.

Eran: Why is new development constructed to accommodate equipment that would be used in other neighborhoods?

General

Jan: Suggested subcommittees meet again to refine and prioritize recommendations.

G.Z.: Suggested subcommittees speculate about linkages among their items. "This is what we think is most important -- this is how you can support our recommendation(s)."

Next meeting

Group set next meeting for January 9, 2006, 4:30-6 p.m. in the Atrium Building.

Note: After the meeting, additional input from G.Z. Brown -- Recommendations should include a strategy that ranks the environmental impact of building materials, processes, and operations -- concentrating on the most important ones. The point spread in the LEED criteria does not reflect the magnitude of environmental damage. This approach could affect a number of the recommendations. Additionally, he notes that Energy Studies in Buildings Laboratory offers technical assistance to engineers, architects, owners and developers of buildings through the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. He also can help provide grant-writing resources.

